

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (Previously presented) A chewable article for animals, such as household dogs and cats, the article being made from thermoplastically processable inulin or mixtures of inulin and/or oligofructans with thermoplastic polymers.

Claims 2-3 (Cancelled).

Claim 4 (Previously presented). A chewable article according to Claim 10, in which the biodegradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of starch in its natural, chemically modified, or physically modified forms, aliphatic polyesters, ethylene vinyl alcohol or vinyl acetate copolymers, polyvinyl alcohol, aromatic aliphatic copolymers, polyamides, and polyester polyamide copolymers.

Claim 5-6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7 (Previously presented). A chewable article according to Claim 12, in which the plasticizer is sorbitol or glycerol.

Claims 8-9 (Cancelled).

Claim 10 (Previously presented). A chewable article according to Claim 1, in which the thermoplastic polymer is selected from biodegradable polymers.

Claim 11 (Previously presented). A chewable article according to Claim 1, in which the quantity of inulin and/or oligofructans present in the mixtures with thermoplastic polymers is between 10 and 20% by weight.

Claim 12 (Previously presented). A chewable article according to Claim 1, in which the inulin and the mixtures of inulin and/or oligofructans with thermoplastic polymers are rendered thermoplastically processable by extrusion at temperatures of between 80 and 200°C in the presence of water and/or a plasticizer containing hydroxyl groups.

Claim 13 (Previously presented). A chewable article according to Claim 1, in the form of bones for dogs.

Claim 14 (Currently amended). A thermoplastically processable material comprising mixtures of inulin and/or oligofructans with thermoplastic polymers, said thermoplastically processable material being obtained by extrusion at a temperature of from 80 °C to 200 °C in the presence of water and/or a plasticizer containing hydroxyl groups.

Claim 15 (Cancelled).